

# Eco-Community Dialogues Newsletter

Nancy Nelson, Editor

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## GMO Labeling Coming Up in WASHINGTON

CONNECTICUT and MAINE have already passed GMO labeling laws and will enact them as soon as the other NEW ENGLAND states join. EUROPE enacted such labeling a whole decade ago, and there's approximately 69 countries that already require GMO labeling, including CHINA, and JAPAN. Here in America several state legislators are considering bills that would require GMO's to be labeled. For example, OHIO is taking up the issue, and citizens in WASHINGTON can vote YES on I-522 on the ballot this autumn.

WASHINGTON has major agricultural and fisheries concerns about Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's) in apples, salmon, and wheat. Any U.S. citizen can sign up at [www.Yeson522.com](http://www.Yeson522.com) to donate and volunteer to help inform voters of their power to label GMO foods.

## GMO Alfalfa

The WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE asserts that an eastern WASHINGTON farmer's crop was rejected by a broker when pesticide resistance was discovered. The farmer intended on growing GMO-free alfalfa and he was under the impression that it was unmodified, but the brokers test the alfalfa to feed livestock. The Agriculture Department ran tests this month. The alfalfa was developed by MONSANTO COMPANY.

*Elizabeth Larter*, spokeswoman for the YES ON 522 CAMPAIGN asserts that the broker's test proves WASHINGTON needs more rigorous food labeling and 522 calls for labeling all the way down to the seed level, giving the state's sensitive overseas market less concern.

THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE spokesman *Mike Louisell* affirmed that it IS IMPORTANT TO SEPARATE GMO PRODUCTS, because consumers want to avoid them.

But MONSANTO spokesperson, *Thomas Helscher*, claims MONSANTO has licensed their patented GMO alfalfa to several companies, and *Rebecca Lentz*, spokesperson for FORAGE GENETICS, asserts that GMO alfalfa seed is permissible in conventional alfalfa seed and low levels of GMO traits are allowed and their presence is listed as "potential impurities" which is what is stated on the seed label.

MONSANTO's Mr. Helscher claims that THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, JAPAN, and SOUTH KOREA import U.S. alfalfa without restrictions on GMO crops, and he claims debate is ongoing with CHINA about importing GMO alfalfa from the U.S.

(Source: September 13, 2013 MAIL TRIBUNE, "Washington State Farmer: Gene-Modified Alfalfa Found" by Nigel Duara)

## Nuclear Accidents Respect No Borders

Maybe you'll realize that the U.S. and CANADA suffered RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT from FUKUSHIMA'S NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. The *Obama Administration* doesn't have to respond to the nuclear explosion's plume that the jet stream carried across the PACIFIC OCEAN. You can allow factual data about dealing with radioactive fallout speak, can't you.

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It's easy to discover that the radioactive cloud stormed the WEST COAST, isn't it. When you understand that U.S. citizens all across NORTH AMERICA were exposed to the hot particles, then you will open up for a great awakening that the CASCADES now have radiated soil.

With a legacy like that, and the fact that FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI is still fissuring, you might feel grateful that JAPAN'S former Prime Minister decided to close all 50 reactors. But now there is a new Prime Minister. You might want to make this change in Prime Ministers more than anything, but what happens when you finally are convinced that the consequences of nuclear energy are inequitable, unfair, and unbeneficial drawbacks that impose too great a risk.

Maybe you haven't yet understood that JAPAN is earthquake prone and the situation at FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI REMAINS PERILOUS. If you consider that *Three Mile Island* took only 14-years to clean up, but the massive decommissioning and decontaminating of FUKUSHIMA is a global nuclear industry PROBLEM that may take HALF A CENTURY to clean up, then you may feel startled over how very bad FUKUSHIMA still is, despite U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission apathy.

Add another 40 or 50-years to your age right now, and when you reach that future birthday, how would it feel about the situation at FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI still being the world's greatest crisis. That's 2050 when FUKUSHIMA's eventually gets clean up. I wouldn't tell you that FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI REMAINS AN INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR CRISIS for the entirety of your children's and grandchildren's life spans. You can stop pretending FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI was no worse than *Chernobyl*.

The new PRIME MINISTER ABE may not know problems posed by nuclear power generation are of such a scale that they cannot be effectively addressed within the confines of one country's national energy policy because already four of JAPAN's nuclear plants have applied to restart a dozen reactors, with the first re-start coming next year.

It would be wonderful if the INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) would play a central role in developing more effective responses to nuclear power plant accidents, and for the decommissioning of obsolescent nuclear reactors. It could establish procedures for decommissioning and verification. Protocols could enumerate prohibited activities such as applying to re-start reactors once a nation has pledged to shut all its reactors down.

The UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON implicates nuclear power safety as being an international society threat on par with nuclear weapons. FUKUSHIMA's radioactive pollution is par with nuclear tests conducted by the nuclear-weapons states starting in the 1950's. You might want to know that JAPAN must receive pressure from abroad. You may find this information very valuable.

The U.S. doesn't have to insist that JAPAN's hierarchy of needs is first and foremost the removal of all of the fuel and other radioactive materials from FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI's reactor remnants that need to be fully disassembled and the TEPCO facility decommissioned. But the complacency of the UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION in only providing assistance to JAPAN "if asked" is betrayal of HAWAII, OREGON, CALIFORNIA, WASHINGTON, and ALASKA.

A real solution has to be found as to where to store FUKUSHIMA's highly radioactive waste products and radioactive soil. The severity of the damage has yet to be brought fully under control. FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI's impact is still an international nuclear crisis, JAPAN's overwhelm must be addressed globally, according to the UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON.

The environment around the stricken nuclear facility is heavily contaminated by radioactive pollutants. Outside influence has to play a persuasive role to stop JAPAN from restarting any of their nearly 40-year old reactors. Foreign pressure is called GAIATSU. JAPAN is located in a geographic zone that typically experiences about 10 percent of the world's earthquakes.

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(Sources: September 16, THE WALLSTREET JOURNAL, "Sole Working Nuclear Unit Goes Offline for a Checkup", by Kosaku Narioka; and September 16, "Japan Will Begin Restarting Idle Nuclear Power Plants" by Elaine Kurtenbach; and September 13 WALL STREET JOURNAL, "If Nuclear Disaster Strikes, Steer Clear of Japan Playbook, Japan's Bad Nuclear Example"; and the January 26, 2012, "Human Security and Sustainability Sharing Reverence for the Dignity of Life" PEACE PROPOSAL by Daisaku Ikeda, President of SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL)

#### Earthquake Hits FUKUSHIMA Prefecture

**JAPAN IS A COUNTRY WITH A LOT OF EARTHQUAKES. Early this morning a magnitude 5.8 earthquake hit JAPAN and was centered in the region of the FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI nuclear power plant.** It hit the FUKUSHIMA prefecture about 30-miles from the nuclear plant's precarious fourth reactor's already severely damaged fuel rod pool, and was felt over wide areas. TOKYO WAS RATTLED, 100-miles away.

As usual JAPAN immediately denied that this recent significant earthquake has hurt FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI's fourth reactor which overheated this summer and was highly precarious before today's quake. The crisis at FUKUSHIMA should merit utmost global attention, rather than complacency and denial.

In the meantime, can you really enjoy the Olympics while JAPAN is in overwhelm from radioactive contamination that imposes long-term effects on human health. Sooner or later it will be common knowledge that the on-going emergency of nuclear disaster posed by FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI is an irremediable burden on present and future generations.

Can you imagine MOTHER EARTH implicating, "Close your nuclear reactors or I'll whack YOUR Cascadia Subduction Zone with a magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami". You might notice the denial feelings disappearing as your book group reads THE VANISHING FACE OF GAIA: A FINAL WARNING by acclaimed scientist, James Lovelock. It may be Lovelock's final book as he is now over ninety years old.

As a serious scientist Lovelock prominently influenced many decades of public policy by arguing that the collapse of civilization is inevitable because climate change would overtake Man's response. Lovelock deplored that climate change would be causative of few people left on the planet, concentrated in areas able to grow food. His response to FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI might go something along the lines of, what MOTHER NATURE would like you to know is, "FUKUSHIMA is just the warm-up act."

But if Man talks in terms of conquest of MOTHER NATURE then we still haven't become mature enough to think of ourselves as only a tiny part of a vast and incredible universe.

Prior to Lovelock, scientist Rachael Carson wrote SILENT SPRING. In a CBS documentary in April 1963, Carson warned civilization that Man is part of Nature and his war against Nature is inevitably a war against himself because attitude is critically important, simply because we have acquired a fateful power to destroy. If you ask today, "Are we facing a civilization-threatening global crisis?" then you absolutely must factor in nuclear contamination of the lower and upper atmosphere, the sea, and the soil.

Paul Gilding, author of THE GREAT DISRUPTION believes we are living in the period of time of global focus on the nuclear issue, because nuclear power could damage the earth's environment as a whole. A sudden global cooling triggered by a massive nuclear explosion could coat the planet with radioactive dust particles, called hot particles. Global melt could turn into a nuclear winter with just a few buttons and phone calls, or earthquakes and tsunamis. Has Man learned that nuclear disaster irreversibly affects the entire planetary system and has intergenerational impact.

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According to *Gilding* the nuclear-free movement helps connect the dots on many levels because the planet's ecosystem operates as a single interdependent system. We can't create any more planet. *Gilding* argues that the first question to always answer is, "What about nuclear?" But a better question is, "What is the cheapest SAFE form of available energy that emits zero CO<sub>2</sub>".

**THE GREAT DISRUPTION by scientist Paul Gilding argues that nuclear can NOT be even a "partial" solution, given the complications of radioactive waste, risk of meltdown, or producing materials that are dangerous in the hands of terrorists or rogue states, and supply limits.**

(Sources: September 20, THE WALLSTREET JOURNAL, "Quake Hits Fukushima Area", by William Sposato; September 16, THE WALLSTREET JOURNAL, "Sole Working Nuclear Unit Goes Offline for a Checkup", by Kosaku Narioka; and September 16, "Japan Will Begin Restarting Idle Nuclear Power Plants" by Elaine Kurtenbach; and September 13 WALL STREET JOURNAL, "If Nuclear Disaster Strikes, Steer Clear of Japan Playbook, Japan's Bad Nuclear Example"; and the January 26, 2012, "Human Security and Sustainability Sharing Reverence for the Dignity of Life" PEACE PROPOSAL by Daisaku Ikeda, President of SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL; and THE GREAT DISRUPTION, BY Paul Gilding)

#### JAPAN'S RAPID TRANSITION

Just prior to this week's significant quake hitting FUKUSHIMA prefecture, Japan's only remaining working nuclear reactor went off line for a check-up. The **Kansai Electric Power Company** at **OHI NUCLEAR PLANT** in the western end of FUKUSHIMA prefecture.

The former *Japanese Prime Minister* promised all 50 of Japan's nuclear energy reactor's would be completely phased out due to concerns over the safety of nuclear plants in a country that is earthquake prone. Due to all the earthquakes in JAPAN, it is a place that should NOT rely on nuclear power.

JAPAN LEADS THE WORLD IN A RAPID TRANSITION TO AN ENERGY POLICY THAT IS NOT RELIANT ON NUCLEAR POWER. Prior to FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI, they were economically dependent on nuclear power generating facilities. Since the rapid transition was possible for JAPAN, it means rapid transition is possible for all nations.

The good news is that alternative energy features are becoming standard in new Japanese homes. It is great that JAPAN is rapidly attaining to solar power, like EUROPEAN COUNTRIES such as GERMANY. **In JAPAN, if you don't have solar power it is a waste of your roof.**

More than 80 percent of homes built by **SEKISUI HOUSE LTD.**, JAPAN's biggest builder of single-family homes, have **solar power panels on the roof**, and half of them have additional **hydrogen fuel cells**. The cells take in natural gas that contains hydrogen as well as oxygen in the air, and generate electricity for *heat* and *hot water*. Between residential solar panels and residential fuel cells, Japanese homes have around-the-clock power generation.

According to the JAPAN GAS ASSOCIATION, **Tokyo Gas Ene-Farm** is the biggest seller of the fuel cells. By the end of March this year, 40,000 homes in JAPAN already installed fuel cells, and between April and September, the company had orders for another 10,000 fuel cells. Fuel cell technology cost will come down to \$7,000.00 by 2016.

According to **Eliiy Power Company**, batteries are being developed so that residents may store their own solar generated power, then all Japanese homes can go completely off-grid. Some home builders are already making new home models that have the *storage batteries* as a standard feature.

JAPAN's second largest electric company, **Kansai Electric Power Company**, is investing in a large solar facility, and in the 12-months that ended this March, JAPAN had installed nearly four gigawatts of solar energy capacity. Since then JAPAN has continued to increase its renewable energy sources by another 15 percent.

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Because of the FUKUSHIMA DAICHI nuclear calamity, interest in new sources of energy has been spurred by JAPAN. The polls show a majority of Japanese want nuclear reactors phased out permanently. Because Japanese citizens remain opposed to nuclear power, companies are even turning golf courses into **solar farms**, and **offshore wind turbines** are being built. Just suppose American citizens decided to stop reliance on traditional grids. How much could we catch up to the EUROPEAN COUNTRIES such as GERMANY.

If JAPAN can go off grid, what's possible for one is possible for everyone. Not only is it possible, it's profitable to build homes with solar power and fuel cells. **KYOCERA CORPORATION's** profits tripled in the April-May-June quarter because **its solar division had a 44% increase**. **SEKI-SUI HOUSE BUILDERS doubled their earnings** from a year earlier because of such high consumer demand for new energy.

(Sources: JAPAN PHOTOVOLTACIC ENERGY ASSOCIATION, and September 18 THE WALLSTREET JOURNAL, "In Post-Tsunami Japan, Homeowners Pull Away from Grid" by Peter Landers and Mayumi Negishi")

#### OREGON's Agrochemical Take Over

According to the MAIL TRIBUNE, **John Watt is the MEDFORD LOBBYIST opposing GMO-free Jackson County**. The Republican leaders are **Ted Ferrioli** and **Mike McLane**. The Democratic House Speaker is **Tina Kotek**. The Democratic Senate President is **Peter Courtney**. **They seem to have struck a "deal" with Governor John Kitzhaber**.

Governor Kitzhaber called A SPECIAL SESSION starting SEPTEMBER 30, for legislators to vote on their pet measures, including the agricultural measure affecting regulation of GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISM (GMO) CROPS that was dismissed last session. Passage of **SB633** would mean that statewide in OREGON there could be no local restriction of GMO crops allowed, and exporters would pay a lower tax rate. Jackson County is exempted because Measure 15-119 is already on the May 2014 ballot for voters to ban GMO crops. Voters still have the chance to ban GMO crops from Jackson County, OREGON.

In the book THE GREAT DISRUPTION, scientist *Paul Gilding* implicates that while agricultural production has increased dramatically over recent decades, it has stopped increasing on a per capita basis. There is also a price to pay for the industrialized farming techniques that have delivered this, such as the nitrogen overload that has yet to fully work its way through the system. The nitrogen fixation on which it relies is highly carbon intensive and industrial agriculture is a nonrenewable industry. That makes it unstable in the coming world. Traditional agriculture is in stark contrast with GMO agrochemical industrial agriculture. Traditional agriculture is NOT dependent upon things that run out. This makes traditional agriculture more stable than GMO crops.

You probably already know that Governor Kitzhaber allegedly agreed to write a letter saying he won't sign any bill produced in this special session, unless he signs them *all*. It is a stunning display of calculated callousness by Governor Kitzhaber towards the negative impact that the GMO's have.

A person could look into the facts about some of the most lethal chemicals known to history, DDT, PCB's, and AGENT ORANGE. The agrochemical MONSANTO COMPANY is responsible also for poisoning the earth with ROUND-UP READY, also called GLYSOSPATE. And the new onslaughts of GMO agrochemical toxins are DICAMBA and 2,4D, the main ingredient in AGENT ORANGE. You could call Governor Kitzhaber in the morning. I'm wondering if you will dial his office number 503.378.4582 or email [representative.citizen@state.or.us](mailto:representative.citizen@state.or.us).

Don't ask Speaker of the House, *Tina Kotek* (D-North/NE Portland) too quickly if she ever read Rachael Carson's book SILENT SPRING. Will you mention the U.S. farm belt has turned into a "green dessert" according to Vandana Shiva, or will you ask her to watch the documentary film called DIRT, when you dial her at 503.986.1200. You are able to email her at [Rep.TinaKotek@state.or.us](mailto:Rep.TinaKotek@state.or.us).

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A person might, dear reader, find some good reasons that make losing birdsong in the springtime a compelling insinuation because GMO agrochemicals harm pollinators, thus decreasing the productivity of crops and native plants. The end game is decreased food availability of the entire food chain. A person might also mention colony collapse disorder of the bees. Having no local restrictions on GMO crops is a bad idea that has many drawbacks.

A person may not know if House Republican Leader Representative, Mike McLane (R-Powell Butte) will care that GMO agrochemical crops negatively impact soil organisms involved in nutrient cycling. It changes the chemistry of the leaf litter processed by the worms, our champions of the earth. Earthworms are sensitive. Aquatic ecosystems are also spoiled. People can, you know, pick up the phone and call his number, 503.986.1400. You might not have noticed you can email him at [Rep.MikeMcLane@state.or.us](mailto:Rep.MikeMcLane@state.or.us).

A person may communicate that thirty years of peer-reviewed research from the RODALE FARMING SYSTEMS show organic farming can match GMO yields and ORGANIC DOES BETTER IN TIMES OF DROUGHT, without any poisonous biocides or patents.

You could also inform your elected officials that NASA implicates human-activity as causative of climate change. Having no GMO agrochemical restrictions in OREGON at the local level is unfair and inequitable because reducing CO2 emissions is important. You might notice how good you feel when you have opined that GMO crops come with consequences called droughts, storms, floods, and rising sea levels, all of which are drawbacks rather than benefits.

If Governor Kitzhaber signs SB633, GMO's will become a bigger global public-safety issue of prime concern, because they alter DNA and introduce new, untested, and potentially disruptive life-forms into the food chain. The politicians know natural seeds have been part of the commons as Man's natural birth right inheritance, since the beginning of time. Man has entered accelerated perilous times and the granting of GMO immunities by elected officials is an important marker for blowing the trumpet, *not just a whistle*.

The remedy to banning county governments from passing protective restrictions against predatory GMO crops would be for Governor Kitzhaber to enact state-wide GMO restrictions. Otherwise SB633 could turn into tyranny against buying and selling natural food without GMO impurities.

MONSANTO HAS COME TO SYMBOLIZE THE ANTITHESIS OF FAIR TRADE, according to Dana Geffner, the Executive Director of the FAIR WORLD PROJECT. The GMO issues and challenges are the topic of the Fall 2013 special GMO issue, "For A Better World". See <http://www.panna.org/issues/pesticides-profit/chemical-cartel> and [www.fairworldproject.org](http://www.fairworldproject.org) for more information about the agrochemical cartel of just six huge chemical companies: BASF, BAYER, DOW, DUPONT, MONSANTO, and SYNGENTA. One may hope that the cartel's mission of selling more toxic chemicals by controlling the agriculture sector of the global society will be noticed as false values.

I could tell you that my ECO-COMMUNITY DIALOGUES newsletters address these issues but I don't know if Man will course-correct. Instead of *taking* from the Earth, agricultural practices need to shift to *giving* to the Earth.

[www.fooddemocracynow.com](http://www.fooddemocracynow.com)  
[www.activism101.ning.com/profiles/blogs/monsantos-history-of](http://www.activism101.ning.com/profiles/blogs/monsantos-history-of)  
[www.pollutioninpeople.org/toxics/pcbs\\_ddt](http://www.pollutioninpeople.org/toxics/pcbs_ddt); [www.wjbr.com/agentor.html](http://www.wjbr.com/agentor.html)  
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[www.huffingtonpost.com/michele-simon/monsanto-protection-act\\_b\\_3327270.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/michele-simon/monsanto-protection-act_b_3327270.html)  
[www.ibtimes.com/monsanto-protection-act\\_5\\_terrifying-things-know-about-hr-933-provision-1156079](http://www.ibtimes.com/monsanto-protection-act_5_terrifying-things-know-about-hr-933-provision-1156079)

(Sources: September 19 MAIL TRIBUNE article, "GMO Provisions Part of Special Session Talks" by Jonathan Cooper; HIPPOCRATES HEALTH INSTITUTE's HEALING OUR WORLD magazine, "The Sun, the Food Chain, and the Stewardship of Survival" by Susan Lerner)

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